

# THE INTERPRETER CONNECTION

Issue 15

January 2019

## Revelation Speaks Peace: Tips and Tools on How to Interpret a Revelation Seminar

“Nohe, when our church had a meeting about our upcoming Revelation Seminar, we voted to bring the information to the Deaf Community. We want you to interpret the meetings.”

Pastor Doug Batchelor had called me to ask me if I would be willing. I was stunned and suddenly scared to death.

I told Doug there was no way I was ready for this type of interpreting being a first year student in the interpreting program at American River College in Sacramento. His response was to try it and see what happened.

I was a member of Sacramento Central Church,

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*Deaf Big Canada Day took place the first weekend in December in Surrey, Canada. See more on page 2.*

# Deaf Big Day Held in Canada

**I**t was an exciting weekend at Surrey, Canada church the first weekend in December as the church hosted their first Deaf Big Day.

Months prior to the weekend, the planning team that consisted of Samuel Heine, Mateusz Sobczak, and Nohelani Jarnes worked together to plan the program and invited Paul Kelly to present and Alan Meis to help interpret.

Pastor Paul Kelly presented last day events on Friday night and all day on Sabbath to the audience mixed with both hearing and Deaf.

Both Alan Meis and Nohelani Jarnes teamed together to interpret the program. All who attended the program were tremendously blessed.



*Above: Paul Kelly presents in church about End Time Prophecy with Nohelani Jarnes and Alan Meis voice interpreting; Sam Heine (middle) presents an ASL Poem for "special music" Sabbath morning; The planning, presenting, and interpreting team for the first Deaf Big Day Canada (bottom left). Photos: AMJ Photography*

# GYC Annual Conference Held

I look forward to the last week of December every year with a lot of excitement and expectation.

For me that last week will always be GYC time, the international youth conference I routinely attend hoping to strengthen my relationship with God and meet other believers. However this year I could hardly contain my excitement as the day approached because I had the wonderful opportunity to a part of the ASL interpreting team for GYC Houston.

Three of us worked together to interpret all of the main meetings of the conference—about four meetings every day. I was the newest interpreter of our group, since I graduated my interpreter training program in May of last year, but I was privileged to have two other very experienced team interpreters to work with: Darrell Strait and Alan Meis. Michelle Arthur also did the organizational work to gather materials for us, being our liaison with GYC leadership, and live streaming each meeting on YouTube with her husband Nathan. The YouTube streaming gathered over four thousand views.

You may be asking why all of this is important. There are a few reasons that stood out to me as I interpreted through the conference. First of all, this kind of ministry provides language access for the Deaf attendees at the conference and the online viewers watching the live stream. Second, I noticed



*The Interpreting team at GYC (left to right): Alan Meis, Michelle Arthur and Eran Bates pose for a group picture at GYC. Not pictured is Darrell Strait, another interpreter who was there.*

immediately that the interpreting raised awareness of Deaf ministry among GYC leadership and the hearing conference attendees. Many people came up to me after meetings wanting to know how they could learn ASL as well, how they could reach out to include the Deaf in their home churches, and asking me why I felt that this ministry is important. Lastly, our interpreting work can be and is being used evangelistically to bring people nearer to Christ. Since I graduated so recently I keep in close communication with my past professors and interpreters who graduated with me. Many of these friends do not know Christ.

Because all of the meetings were live streamed I was able to send the link to many of them, asking them to watch and provide feedback for me. Several friends did, and commented that they were blessed by the content of the meetings. All of these are reasons that interpreting ministry is important.

Beyond the factual importance of interpreting for GYC, my experience deeply affected me. It encouraged me to continue to challenge myself in the interpreting field, going beyond my comfort zone. As a new graduate I often minimize my skills, preferring to interpret in more private, smaller environments. Although smaller

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# Gospel Outreach India Trip

**O**n February 11-25, 2018 Marvin Budd and Chuck McGehee went to India on a mission trip. They were there training the Gospel Outreach Workers in Thanjavur, North East Andhra, North Andhra, and Visakapatnam. Another hearing worker for the deaf was there one day from Karnakata.

Marvin taught the new Gospel Outreach curriculum, Stories of Hope and Faith, to the workers. The curriculum uses Bible stories to teach about the Bible. This is effective with Muslim and Hindu populations in the 10/40 window. Development of this was led by Pat Gustin. Chuck McGehee did all the speaking on the trip. On Sabbath, three people were baptized in the campus font.



*Above and right: Marvin and Chuck in India. Below, church in India.*



Marvin and Chuck then travelled southwest to the School for the Speech and Hearing Impaired at Kollegal. This school is a Child Impact International school (formerly Asian Aid). There, Chuck was asked to give two daily presentations for their Week of Prayer. He also spoke on Sabbath and had meetings with the students.

Marvin and Chuck both learned the student's sign language as much as possible. For these students to stay in the Church, there is a critical need for a Bangalore SDA Church, and good deaf pastors both there and in Andhra.

Marvin and Chuck were able to identify several different ways to fingerspell in Indian Sign Language. With about six hundred different languages and dialects in India, this is not surprising. They were strongly impressed that both last year and this year the American Deaf are actively working to spread the gospel to the Deaf in India.

Gospel Outreach Ministries is looking for a GO Director for India to take this permanent position. **Please contact Marvin Budd with any names that might be willing to help, or if you are willing to help in any way: [marvbudd@gmail.com](mailto:marvbudd@gmail.com).** Many precious souls are in India and they encourage your prayers and planning to finish the work.

# Carolina Conference to Spotlight Deaf Ministry at Camp Meeting

The Carolina Conference is excited to shine a spotlight on Deaf Ministry this Camp Meeting, hosted at Lake Junaluska Conference and Retreat Center May 26th through June 2nd. We are planning a few events:

- On Thursday night, May 30th in the main meeting we will be presenting a two minute report on what Deaf ministry is, why it's important to all of us, and how you can get involved. It will be accessible in English and ASL.

- Friday, May 31st, CODA and North American Division Deaf Ministries Coordinator Esther Doss will be presenting an all day workshop on Deaf Ministry and Religious Interpreting. This is not just a workshop for interpreters. This is a workshop for anyone with some signing skills they'd like to improve, anyone interested in Deaf ministry and wondering how to get involved, and any and all Deaf are welcome.
- All day Saturday, June 1st, we will have two interpreters teaming to make all main meetings accessible in ASL.

For more information on Camp Meeting and lodging arrangements visit the Carolina Conference website at [carolinasda.org](http://carolinasda.org). For more information on Deaf Ministries in the Carolina Conference email Eran Bates at [signingtogodsglory@gmail.com](mailto:signingtogodsglory@gmail.com). We look forward to seeing you there!

*Eran Bates is an ASL Interpreter in Western North Carolina, living with her family and serving in her local church. She is passionate about Sign Language, the Deaf community, and ministry of all kinds.*

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environments are learning experiences too, it's important to challenge ourselves with more intimidating situations while learning with experienced team interpreters. Working with Alan, Darrell, and Michelle bolstered my confidence and gave me great new skills. But most of all, interpreting for GYC gave me a new and heightened sense of how large the work of Deaf ministry is.

As I interpreted We Have This Hope, the last song of the last meeting, my heart swelled thinking of the people I hope to see in heaven because of interpreting and language access. See you at GYC next year in Louisville, Kentucky!

*Eran Bates is an ASL Interpreter in Western North Carolina, living with her family and serving in her local church. She is passionate about Sign Language, the Deaf community, and ministry of all kinds.*

## From the Editor



Happy New Year! As I reflect back on the year 2018 I am thankful for all that God has done. When we look at the state of the world, let us all commit our lives to God in this next year and be ready for Christ's soon return. Enjoy this edition of *The Interpreter Connection!*

Do you want to contribute? Send all articles, pictures or points of interest for *The Interpreter Connection* to [7thdayterps@gmail.com](mailto:7thdayterps@gmail.com). Thank you for all of your services for God!

—Nohe

## DID YOU KNOW?

Older editions of *The Interpreter Connection* will be archived at Three Angel Deaf Ministries webpage. To see what you have missed, please visit [3adm.org](http://3adm.org) and click on "ministries," "interpreter" and then scroll to the bottom of the page. Click on the link labeled "Interpreter Connection."

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friends with the Batchelor family and yet I felt completely unprepared for this program. I reluctantly agreed.

Reflecting back on the experience, it was a great time of searching to know what God was calling me to do. Yes, I bombed interpreting the program. The first night was a disaster; many times I had no idea how to interpret the crazy symbols of Revelation and Daniel. However, through this seemingly terrible experience, God allowed me to meet a precious Deaf woman who had prayed to meet an Adventist Interpreter.

I discovered I was not the only Adventist Interpreter in the world! I also met another precious Deaf individual who mentored me in religious signs.

Yes, God had a plan. God can definitely use you to reach people, but I hope that this series that will appear in *The Interpreter Connection*



gives you a few tips and tools you can use in your own interpreting that I have gleaned over the years.

### **No Cold Turkeys Allowed!**

One thing I have learned that is

absolutely crucial to the interpreting process is to be prepared! When Revelation Speaks Peace, a program created by Voice of Prophecy featuring Shawn Boonstra, came to Washington Conference, I was excited!

The Conference Director of Evangelism met with me and said that VOP wanted this information to be reached to the Deaf Community. We began to work together on how this would work and it turned into a fantastic experience. I immediately said that I needed preparation materials. VOP was already one step ahead of me on this and was going to be sending the set of previously recorded meetings to Washington Conference for the interpreters to borrow. I got the material four months before the meetings began and set to work to prepare.

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# Interpreters needed

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Preparation meant that I had to watch each meeting on the disc and make a list of questionable vocabulary. What is helpful, but definitely not required, is to make an outline of each of the meetings. This was a tremendous help because it allowed me and my team interpreter to brush up on the last minute things the night of the meeting and not have to re-watch the meeting again.

For any interpreter reading this article would like access to my outlines I created, please contact me and I will gladly share! The vocabulary sheet was a starting place to allow my team interpreter and me a place to start tearing apart the interpreting process.

I can't stress enough here how important this is! Shawn is well known for his speaking abilities, especially with how fast he can speak. It is not uncommon to hear of an interpreter quitting in the middle of the program or leaving that night crying because he's difficult to keep up with.

While you might be reading this and thinking that you will never, ever, in your church career interpret for Shawn, I have news for you my friend. More than likely, at some point, you will. It is a tremendous blessing to be part of the VOP team and reach souls through their Revelation Speaks Program. Practice and preparation are key to help you be ready to interpret these types of seminars.

Next edition we will explore more tips and tools on the RSP series!



Are you a skilled interpreter willing to volunteer to interpret at International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin this summer? You are needed! Contact the interpreter coordinator for the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee, Melissa Beattie, for more information: [eglwnzterp@gmail.com](mailto:eglwnzterp@gmail.com)

## CONGRATULATIONS!



*Melissa Neave (San Antonio, TX) had her baby on January 12, 2019. Meet Sarai! 8lbs, 21 inches*